

### **Fighting for New York**

Rep. Steve Israel has been an advocate on behalf of New York service members and military families throughout his tenure in Congress. He served for four years on the House Armed Services Committee, and is currently the only New Yorker on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies. Rep. Israel is a member of the House Democratic Study Group on National Security, which regularly brings defense, intelligence and military experts to Capitol Hill to brief members of Congress and review U.S. national security policy.

### **Homeland Security**

#### *Appropriations*

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Israel successfully fought Bush's budget cuts to first responder and port security grant programs that are vital to the security of New York. In 2008, Rep. Israel brought the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security Rep. David Price to New York City. Israel and Price toured the city with NYPD and Homeland Security officials to study the city and surrounding communities' national security needs.

#### *Shoulder-Fired Missiles*

Rep. Israel has also led the fight in the House to increase U.S. efforts to counter the threat of shoulder fired missiles. Developed more than thirty years ago to protect small groups of ground troops from air assaults, shoulder-fired missiles (also known as MANPADS, or MAN Portable Air Defense Systems) have proved highly effective at targeting aircraft. The ability of terrorists to accurately target aircraft from as far as three miles away makes it very difficult to protect against the deadly weapons. Reports from the intelligence community, the State Department, and other government agencies indicate that shoulder-fired missiles have hit dozens of civilian aircraft since the 1970s and killed hundreds of people worldwide. They accounted for most of the planes brought down in the first Gulf War and are responsible for a number of shoot-downs in the current war in Iraq.

Rep. Israel wrote original legislation that would equip American-flagged commercial jets with enhanced anti-missile countermeasures. In response, in 2008, the Department of Homeland Security created a pilot program to install anti-missile technologies on commercial jets. The program will study how the anti-missile jammers work on aircraft as they travel from New York to California.

### **Defense Policy**

#### *Iraq & Afghanistan*

Rep. Israel has made multiple visits to Iraq and Afghanistan to meet with U.S. Armed Forces and top military commanders. In December 2009, he visited Afghanistan as the leader of a Congressional Delegation trip. During that visit he met with General Stanley McChrystal, the

Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, to discuss U.S. strategy and policy for Afghanistan.

Rep. Israel is a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, which oversees funding for many programs in Iraq and Afghanistan and a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, which oversees funding for military bases around the world. Rep. Israel introduced legislation that would recognize allies who assisted U.S. troops in Iraq.

### *Professional Military Education*

Rep. Israel has been working since his time on the House Armed Services Committee to increase the military's commitment to widespread professional military education, which is the continuing development of service members and military leaders while they are in the Armed Forces. Rep. Israel successfully worked to pass several important amendments on military education to the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill. His efforts have helped an increased number of service members get training and education on linguistics, cultural awareness, regional expertise, military history, demographics and more.